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8 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE,
THE JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Joint Intelligence Group assistance to the Central
Intelligence Agency in the preparation of strategic
intelligence estimates

1. Estimates of probable developments in certain foreign areas are regularly prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency in connection with its continuing responsibility for the production of intelligence related to the national security, particularly with reference to the capabilities and intentions of the USSR. Requests for the production of such strategic estimates are frequently received by the Central Intelligence Agency from the top-level policy and operational echelons of the United States Government.

2. Such estimates embody considerations of military capabilities and strategy, and must be prepared on a realistic appreciation of all significant military factors. These factors include considerations of military commitments, strategic capabilities and operational plans of the United States and of the nations bound to us by treaty or community of interests. Such factors enter into the world-wide situation or the situation in a given area, and must be constantly kept in mind by intelligence specialists in weighing and appraising the intentions, capabilities, and courses of action open to the USSR and other world powers.

3. Representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency discussed this problem with the Assistant Directors of the Joint Intelligence Group on 1 March 1950, to set forth this

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need and to secure their views on the problem. It was agreed that the Joint Intelligence Group is not in a position to make direct contributions to such strategic estimates, nor to coordinate the contributions submitted for these estimates by the three service intelligence agencies. However, it was agreed that some representation from the Joint Intelligence Group could and should be made available to the Central Intelligence Agency on the working level, for the following purposes:

a. to ensure that these estimates are prepared on realistic considerations of all significant military factors; and

b. to act in a consultative capacity during the preparation of these estimates.

5. It is proposed that Joint Intelligence Group representatives be designated to work directly with the several regional divisions of the Office of Reports and Estimates, particularly in the formative stages of the preparation of national intelligence estimates. If agreeable, I should like to have you designate the member of your staff with whom the details of liaison and consultation could be arranged.

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Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

Joint Intelligence Group Assistance to the Central Intelligence Agency
in the Preparation of Strategic Intelligence Estimates

It is recommended that the proposal outlined in the attached memorandum be approved and that the attached memorandum be signed and despatched.

/5/

THOMAS HARRITT

Attachment:

Proposed memo to Deputy Director
for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

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S/PP/ONE [REDACTED] /jw

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30 Mar/50 for
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